

REMARKS

The Examiner's action mailed January 30, 2003 has been given careful consideration by the applicants. Reconsideration of the application is hereby respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 3, 9, and 12-17 were objected to because of informalities.

Claims 12-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failure to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,310,944 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,865.

Claims 9 and 12-17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claim 12 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 12 has also been amended to include the language of canceled claim 3.

Likewise, claim 9 has been amended to include the language of canceled claim 3.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in the application (Claims 9 and 12-17) are now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is respectfully requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby requested to telephone Joseph D. Dreher, at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 30, 2004
Date

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